

County COUNTY FOREST PAYMENTS/PENALTIES

No severance tax will be collected from counties with a paid up balance on their County Forest account. The County Forest Specialist will maintain balance records for each County Forest.

Normal Timber Sales

Severance share payment on timber sales conducted on regular county forest lands for stumpage will be 20% of the actual sale value or the value determined subsequent to investigation under s.28.11(6)(b)4, Wis. Stats. A higher rate may be applicable when so agreed upon by the Department and the county involved.

Cut Products - County Forest Lands

The severance share on cut products used or sold by the county shall be 20% of the Forest Crop Severance Tax Schedule in effect on the date a final report is submitted pursuant to s. 77.06(2), Wis. Stats. Only a final report on the Timber Sale Cutting Report, Form 2460-1, need be filed.

Timber Theft from County Forests

The severance share payment will be 20% of the Forest Crop Severance Tax Schedule in effect on the date a final report is submitted pursuant to s. 77.06(2), Wis. Stats. Penalty payments or other charges for damages must not be reported in the Final Report on Form 2460-1. The severance share payment does not include 20% of such penalties.

County Special Use Lands

Normal timber sale procedures will be used in conducting timber sales on County Special Use lands. However, no severance share payment will be collected.

Timber sales on "regular" and "special use" lands must be conducted as separate sales and on separate forms even if sold at the same time.

Double Stumpage Penalty

The cutting of merchantable wood products without the filing and approval of a cutting notice (Form 2460-1) renders the county liable to the state in an amount equal to double the stumpage value of the cut products. Upon failure by the county to pay the penalty, the Department may withhold such amount from future state contributions to the county.

The double stumpage value payment is a "penalty", not a severance tax; therefore, it may not be treated as a credit against the county's debt.

The severance tax, over and above the double stumpage penalty payment, is also owed under s. 28.11(9)(a), Wis. Stats., if there is a balance due, and will be credited against their balance in the forestry fund account.